

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00474 240902Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
DODE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 /055 W  
-----038263 241402Z /41

R 240801Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9208  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
CINCPAC  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0474

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK ALSO PASS UDORN ELECTRICALLY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR MMOL MASS LA UR  
SUBJECT: AIR INVENTORY, PLANNING AND OPERATIONS FROM WATTAY

REF: A VIENTIANE 0289 NOTAL, B VIENTIANE 0258 NOTAL,  
C 77 VIENTIANE 1370

1. A RELIABLE LAO SOURCE TOLD US APRIL 21 THAT THERE  
WERE CURRENTLY EIGHT MIG-21'S BASED AT WATTAY. TWO OF  
THE MIG'S WERE TWIN SEATER PLANES. SOURCE KNEW OF NO  
OTHER MIG'S BASED IN LAOS.

2. HE SAID THAT LAO, INCLUDING FORMER RLG PILOTS, WERE  
FLYING MIG'S AND THAT RECENTLY, SOVIET PERSONNEL HAD  
BEGUN GIVING NIGHT FLYING TRAINING TO SOME LAO PILOTS,  
THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY ON MIGS. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE RLG  
PILOTS WERE FAR SUPERIOR TO THEIR PATHET LAO  
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00474 240902Z

COUNTERPARTS DESPITE EXTENSIVE TRAINING PROVIDED TO THE PL  
PILOTS BY THE SOVIETS IN THE USSR.

3. HE SAID THAT SIX ANTONOV 2'S WERE DELIVERED TO  
WATTAY BY THE SOVIETS DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL.

4. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS AND LAO WERE

ATTEMPTING TO CONVERT AMERICAN "SPOOKIES" (C-47'S) INTO GUNSHIPS BY MOUNTING ON THE PLANES A MAGAZINE FED MULTI-BARREL WEAPON THAT USED AN EXTERNAL POWER SOURCE, POSSIBLY A LITHIUM BATTERY, WHICH THE LPDR WAS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN IN HONG KONG. SOURCE NOTED THAT THE LAO HAD A SIZEABLE STOCK OF AMMO FOR THESE AMERICAN WEAPONS.

5. THE SOURCE NOTED THAT SINCE LATE MARCH IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO PRODUCE AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT BEFORE ENTERING THE MILITARY PORTION OF WATTAY AIRPORT.

6. COMMENT; THIS REPORT OF EIGHT MIG'S AT WATTAY WOULD APPEAR TO LEND CREDENCE TO REPORTS TO TWO MIG CRASHES (REFTELS A AND B) BASED ON AN ORIGINAL COUNT OF TEN MIG'S AT WATTAY (REF C).

7. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS AND LAO WOULD PERMIT FORMER RLG PILOTS TO FLY ANY OF THE MIG'S ON THEIR OWN (PARA 2). WE HAVE NEVER HEARD MIGS OVER VIENTIANE AT NIGHT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF AIR ACTIVITY NEAR WATTAY ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 22. THE PLANES DID NOT, HOWEVER, SOUND LIKE MIG'S.

8. THE EMBASSY HAS NO WAY OF EVALUATING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA 4, BUT INCLUDES IT FYI.

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 00474 240902Z

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY BASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI00474  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** AIR INVENTORY, PLANNING AND OPERATIONS FROM WATTAY  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014